

Message Text

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11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 200820Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1178

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8067

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ MILI, IN, IR, PK, US

SUBJ: IRANIAN MILITARY HELICOPTERS IN PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 184976

1. DEPLOYMENT OF IRANIAN HELICOPTERS IN SUPPORT OF PAK MILITARY OPERATIONS IN BALUCHISTAN APPARENTLY IS ALREADY COMMON KNOWLEDGE AMONG OPPOSITION FIGURES HERE, AND HAS EVEN BEEN MENTIONED IN OPPOSITION PRESS. (SEPTEMBER 15 ISSUE KARACHI ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY OUTLOOK CONTAINED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL COMMENT: "ALTHOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER HAS DENIED IT, THE PRESENCE OF IRANIAN HELICOPTERS AND PERSONNEL HAS BEEN TALKED ABOUT WITH A REAT DEAL OF PERSISTENCE AND BY SOURCES NUMEROUS ENOUGH TO LEND IT MORE THAN A SEMBLANCE OF CREDIBILITY".)

2. WE AGREE FULLY WITH PARA 2 REFTTEL PROPOSAL FOR CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE IF STORY HITS INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND USG IS ASKED ABOUT IT, I.E., LOW-KEYED STRAIGHTFORWARD CONFIRMATION THAT IRAN HAS INFORMED US OF DEPLOYMENT AND, IF PRESSED, STATEMENT THAT THIS DOES NOT VIOLATE ANY COMMITMENTS RE USE OF THESE HELI-CONFIDENTIAL

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COPTERS. WE DOUBT THAT PAKS WOULD OBJECT SERIOUSLY TO THIS FORMULA, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT MAKE THEM SLIGHTLY UNCOMFORTABLE IN VIEW THEIR SHARP DENIAL IRANIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN BALUCHISTAN (ISLAMABAD 9390).

3. ALSO AGREE ON ADVISABILITY INFORMING GOP IN ADVANCE
OF OUR PROPOSED FORMULA, STRESSING THAT WE INTEND USING
IT ONLY IF ASKED.SANDERHOFF

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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